from four to six being let into a piece of hollowed wood, the handle of this forming the mouthpiece. The sound, which is something like that of bag-pipes, is produced by brass reeds fixed into the tubes which are of different lengths. Tunes played on these instruments seem weird and monotonous to the Westerner but they play a dangerous part in the life of the young people. When, on moonlight nights, pipers come to the outskirts of a village the music is irresistible to the girls, who go out to the players, and after posture-like dancing and anti-phonal singing spend the night in their company. It is not unheard of for a mother to encourage her own fourteen-year-old daughter to go out to these youths. Human nature can sink very low.

The Miao are yellow-skinned and broad-nosed; they are of short stature and have straight black hair. Occasionally one meets with a boy or girl whose hair is reddish and such children are unpopular. Like the Chinese the Miao language is tonal and mono-syllabic; in every other respect it is entirely different. Happily their language is more easily learnt than Chinese, though the tones are quite as confusing. As an illustration, take a word which we would spell with the letters D and A. Pronounced with what scholars would term an upper even tone "*da*" means "to drag", "to seize"; pronounced with an ascending tone "*da*" means "to kill", with a departing tone "to come", with a lower even tone "to die" or "to kick". It will be readily understood how bewildering such a language can be.

/438 cont./

A 462 [342] [313] [252] The division of men's and women's work is quite similar among the Akha, who are not inferior to the Meau in industriousness. Among them, however, housebuilding is exclusively a task for the men, whereas the preparation of firewood, for which large trunks must often be chopped up, is one of the tasks reserved for the women. Cooking and the hulling of rice in the mortar are, to be sure, tasks of the Akha women, but the men very commonly help them.

A 461 857 No differently than among the Meau, there are scarcely any tasks for the Akha children that are to be performed exclusively by them; the situation in this respect is the same as among the Meau.

/439/

Chapter 27

Anthropology

M 165 When one considers the poor hygienic conditions in association with the hardest physical labor (see the chapter, "Medicine"), it is truly astonishing that one comes across relatively many old people among the Meau. Also, I cannot agree M 145 [114] with Marabail (1) who in his work advocates the view that the

1. Page 463.

Meau grow old prematurely. On the contrary, I often marveled that the women, in spite of their work load, which was too hard M [841] for them physically, and even though no notice was taken with regard to the menstruation periods, actually do not lose their bloom any earlier than among our own people and in any case much less rapidly than among the southern Europeans.

A M 141 The Akha as well as the Meau are definitely small in stature. From the 20 women and men measured, the average heights amounted to:

AKha A04
Miao AE5

/439 cont./

A
M
141

Meau:		Akha:	
Men	1580 mm.	Men	1574 mm.
Women	1478 mm.	Women	1492 mm.

The tallest individual measured:

Man	1642 mm.	Man	1683 mm.
Woman	1562 mm.	Woman	1511 mm.

The shortest individual measured:

Man	1532 mm.	Man	1430 mm.
Woman	1431 mm.	Woman	1420 mm.

M
114
141

If one considers that the stature of the Meau makes them one of the smallest of all the mountain peoples, he cannot agree with Scott (2), who maintains that with regard to the Meau it is

2. Page 589.

a matter of a "tall-statured race in relation to their neighbors." Savina's statements, too, as well as Abadie's (3), which maintain,

3. Page 151.

"Medium /440/ height for the men, short for the women," or those by Witek (1), based on figures taken from the literature,

1. Page 88.

of 1540 mm. to 1580 mm. for men and 1520 mm. to 1570 mm. for women among the Meau, seem too large to me, at least for the Thailand Meau. Lajonquière (2) comes closest,

2. II, p. 301.

AKha AO4
Miao AE5

M 114 /440 cont./ describing the Meau as short of stature and with short legs.

● 141 The men of both peoples are slender and gracile; the women, especially those among the Meau, are plumper. I M 142 114 could not find any confirmation for Seidenfaden's (3) statement

3. II, p. 153.

that the Meau are powerfully and solidly built and have a tendency toward obesity.

M [141] According to Marabail (4), the Meau is not tall and is

4. Page 453.

almost as white as the European; his forehead high, the eyes brown, his countenance alert and congenial. Marabail (4) A /see footnote 4 above/ and Scott (5), and along with them [114] [142]

5. Page 589.

several other authors, make the assertion that, in general, the skin color of the female sex among the Meau and Akha is lighter than that of the males. I myself found the skin of the Meau light-yellowish. The skin of the Akha is always brownish, A lacking the yellow tone. In the sun a dark brown with a reddish 142 cast develops. Scott's (5) /see footnote 5 above/ expressed 114 opinion that the darker skin color of the Akha comes about because of their aversion to bath water is not justified. Lowis, however, also speaks of a "dark-colored tribe of people."

A The Mongolian spot is the rule among the Meau, as well M as among the Akha, Yau /Yao/, Lahu, and Lisu; it disappears 143 about five years after birth.

M The skull of the Meau (Ills. 52 to 56) 1 is brachy- to 141 mesocephalic, an observation that is confirmed by Schotter (6).

6. VI, p. 318.

A too. Among the Akha (Ills. 1 to 5) 2 it is as a rule mesocephalic, 141 but dolichocephalic types also occur sporadically among these people.

1 [see cat. 116 PP 365-367- ANALYST]
2 [" " " PP 11- 13 - "]

AKha A04
Miao AE5

/440 cont./

A M Both sexes are characterized by a high, relatively vertical forehead, slightly sloping off toward the back in isolated cases. 141 The frontal angle does not exceed or fall below the range of variation for Europoid races and as a rule is somewhat larger among the male sex than among the females. I did not find any skull formations such as are described by Seidenfaden (7). I therefore

A M [114]

7. II, p. 154.

assume that this was a matter of pathological abnormalities.

/441/ The face is characterized among both peoples by extraordinary individual variation. Otherwise, among the Meau, it is flat (Ill. 54), and among the Akha projecting toward the nose (Ill. 1). Neither among the Akha nor among the Meau did I find any prognathism of the lower part of the face, in contrast to Lowis, who speaks of the jaw of the Akha as unnaturally developed for the region. The zygomatic arches usually stand out sharply among the Meau, sometimes very sharply, less among the Akha and sometimes not at all.

A M [114]

The chin among the Meau is generally round, often tapering below to a point, as among the Lapps. Among the Akha it extends more ovally, but it likewise often tapers to a point below.

The lower jaw among both peoples is gracile and slightly receding.

A M 142 The mouth among both peoples is wide, but it does not exceed the range of variation for Europoid peoples. Among the Meau it is often very small with extremely narrow lips, among the Akha not as small and often with considerably broader lips, and usually well-shaped among both peoples. Even among the Akha, however, protruding lips never occur, although the women in particular often have markedly broad lips. In general, the lips of the Akha are broader than those of the average European, but narrower than those of the Thai.

A M 141 M [481]

/442 cont./ The legs of the Meau are short, especially those of the women. Short and very rapid steps are therefore the rule. The feet are narrow and strikingly small and gracile. In contrast to this, the legs of the Akha are longer, but above all the feet are large and rather clumsy.

Among both peoples the arms seem long in relation to the legs; the hands are well-shaped and, like the feet, narrow and small. The hands of the Akha are likewise narrow, but large.

A M 142

The body hair among both tribes is black. But whereas it is almost absent among the Meau, particularly the arms and legs of the Akha are very hairy. Both peoples have only a slight development of pubic hair.

M [143]

Among both the Akha and the Meau, the head hair is black, bristly, and has a bluish shimmer. The hair of the Meau is somewhat thicker than that of the Akha, the growth of hair very abundant, and baldness rare, not observed by me at all.

The hair of the men reaches down over the shoulders among both peoples, among the women often to the hips.

M 142 114

Witek (1) mentions, besides the black hair-color of the

1. Page 92.

Meau, also brown hair among the men and among the Meau women, besides black, also finds brown and even blond hair. Abadie (2), too, confirms /Ills. 80-85 appear here on unnum-

2. Page 151.

M [143]

bered pages/ /443/ the not infrequent occurrence of blond and, in the case of albinos, white hair. In contrast to this I myself was unable to find a single case of any hair color other than black or bluish black.